

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 13 wherein ~~the~~ said basic invention is identified and/or characterized by accomplishing any one or more of the following steps:
- (a) facilitating drawing of a diagram of ~~the~~ said basic invention;
 - (b) facilitating definition of one or more elements of ~~the~~ said basic invention; and
 - (c) facilitating definition of problem(s) solved and/or problems to be solved by ~~the~~ said basic invention.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 13 further comprising the step of communicating to ~~the inventors~~ said at least one inventor any one or more concepts selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) ~~concept of an~~ said basic invention being a function of the problem to be solved by ~~the~~ said basic invention, the element(s) that comprise the basic invention, and how the elements are connected or interrelated;
 - (b) ~~a ladder of abstraction;~~
 - (c) prior art, novelty, nonobviousness, inventive step, and bar dates;
 - (d) (c) inventorship; and
 - (e) (d) enablement and written description.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of documenting and/or recording administrative information.
6. (Canceled)

7. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 7 16 wherein ~~the alternate questioning themes comprises one or more themes~~ said at least one second questioning theme is selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) disadvantages of the said basic invention;
 - (b) advantages of the said basic invention;
 - (c) operability issue(s);
 - (d) other ways to solve a same problem;
 - (e) licensing strategies; and
 - (f) identification of competitors and/or competitive products.
8. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 7 16 further comprising prior to the ~~"growing" of the basic invention step (b), the step of~~ communicating to the inventor(s) said at least one inventor any one or more concepts selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) ~~concept of an~~ said basic invention being a function of the problem to be solved by the said basic invention, the element(s) that comprise the said basic invention, and how the element(s) are connected or interrelated;
 - (b) ~~a ladder of abstraction;~~
 - (c) ~~prior art, novelty, nonobviousness, inventive step, and bar dates;~~
 - (d) ~~(c)~~ inventorship; and
 - (e) ~~(d)~~ enablement and written description.
9. **(Canceled)**
10. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 7 16 further comprising the step of documenting and/or recording administrative information.
11. **(Canceled)**
12. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim ~~13~~ 19 wherein ~~the alternate questioning themes comprise one or more themes~~ said at least one second questioning theme is selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) disadvantages of the said basic invention;

- (b) advantages of the said basic invention;
- (c) operability issue(s);
- (d) other ways to solve a same problem;
- (e) licensing strategies; and
- (f) identification of competitors and/or competitive products.

13. (New) A method of producing an invention document, comprising the steps of:

- (a) communicating to at least one inventor the concept of ladder of abstraction;
- (b) interviewing said at least one inventor to identify or otherwise characterize a basic invention;
- (c) questioning said at least one inventor with how-type questions relating to the functioning of said basic invention, said how-type questions structured so as to elicit at least one response from said at least one inventor directed to enabling at least one detail of said basic invention;
- (d) iterating steps (b) and (c) at least once; and
- (e) recording in an invention document subject matter of at least some of said responses elicited from said inventor in steps (b)-(d).

14. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein said invention document is an invention disclosure form.

15. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein said invention document is an application to a governmental patent office.

16. (New) A method of producing an invention document, comprising the steps of:

- (a) communicating to at least one inventor the concept of ladder of abstraction;
- (b) identifying a basic invention having a plurality of aspects;
- (c) selecting a first questioning theme selected to elicit from said at least one inventor at least one enhancement of at least one of said plurality of aspects of said basic invention;

- (d) eliciting from said at least one inventor at least one of said plurality of aspects of said basic invention that relates to said first questioning theme;
- (e) eliciting from said at least one inventor via said first questioning theme said at least one enhancement;
- (f) repeating steps (c)-(e) at least one time for alternate ones of said plurality of aspects within said first questioning theme;
- (g) repeating steps (c)-(e) at least one time for at least one second questioning theme; and
- (h) recording in an invention document subject matter of at least some of said responses elicited from said inventor in steps (b)-(d).

17. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein said invention document is an invention disclosure form.
18. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein said invention document is an application to a governmental patent office.
19. (New) A method of producing an invention document, comprising the steps of:
- (a) communicating to at least one inventor the concept of ladder of abstraction;
 - (b) communicating to said at least one inventor at least one of the concepts selected from the group consisting of:
 - (i) a basic invention being a function of the problem to be solved by said basic invention, the element(s) that comprise said basic invention, and how the element(s) are connected or interrelated;
 - (ii) prior art, novelty, nonobviousness, inventive step, and bar dates;
 - (iii) inventorship; and
 - (iv) enablement and written description;
 - (c) defining detail of said basic invention by performing at least one of the steps of:
 - (i) interviewing said at least one inventor to identify or otherwise characterize said basic invention;
 - (ii) questioning said at least one inventor with how-type questions relating to the functioning of said basic invention, said how-type questions structured so as to

elicit at least one response from said at least one inventor directed to enabling at least one detail of said basic invention; and

(iii) iterating steps (b)(i) and (b)(ii) at least once;

(d) growing said basic invention, wherein said basic invention has a plurality of aspects, by performing at least one of the steps of:

(i) selecting a first questioning theme selected to elicit from at least one inventor at least one enhancement to at least one of said plurality of aspects of said basic invention;

(ii) eliciting from said at least one inventor at least one of said plurality of aspects of said basic invention that relates to said first questioning theme;

(iii) eliciting from said at least one inventor via said first questioning theme said at least one enhancement;

(iv) repeating steps (c)(ii)-(c)(iii) at least one time for alternate ones of said plurality of aspects within said first questioning theme; and

(v) repeating steps (c)(i)-(c)(iv) at least one time for at least one second questioning theme; and

(e) including in an invention document subject matter of at least some of said responses elicited from said at least one inventor in steps (b)(ii) and (b)(iii) and at least some of said enhancements elicited from said at least one inventor in steps (c)(iii)-(c)(v).

20. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein said invention document is an invention disclosure form.

21. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein said invention document is an application to a governmental patent office.

22. (New) An article comprising a computer readable medium containing a computer program for executing a method of producing an invention document, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) communicating to at least one inventor the concept of ladder of abstraction;

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- (b) interviewing said at least one inventor to identify or otherwise characterize a basic invention;
 - (c) questioning said at least one inventor with how-type questions relating to the functioning of said basic invention, said how-type questions structured so as to elicit at least one response from said at least one inventor directed to enabling at least one detail of said basic invention; and
 - (d) iterating steps (b) and (c) at least once.
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